

# FAS Times

April 2009 Vol. 3

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### FBA Used Book Sale



**April 7 - 8, 2009**  
FOB Lobby, Fort Worth  
(11am - 1pm)

**Easter Sunday**  
**April 12, 2009**



### Texas Ranger's Opening Night Game



**April 8, 2009**  
Rangers vs. Indians  
7:05pm

*The GSA Employee Association  
is selling discount tickets.*  
Contact: Ron Lutman at (817) 978-8415  
or any of your GSAEA representatives.

### Recovery Act Rally

**April 22, 2009, 1:00pm**  
Fort Worth Convention Center

### Individual Highlights

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**Have a question?**  
Send to [R07FAS@gsa.gov](mailto:R07FAS@gsa.gov)

## FAS Recovery Act Highlights

FAS is pleased that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was signed into law and thrilled by this unique opportunity to directly participate in our Nation's economic recovery.

GSA is the federal government's backbone. During both good times and times of crisis, we are the integral link between seeing what needs to be done and making it actually happen.

The FAS response focuses on five critical areas:

- **Providing tailored acquisition support for PBS**  
Supporting PBS efforts to green federal buildings is one of our highest priorities and demonstrates the One GSA approach in action. FAS supports PBS in four areas: Acquisition management, project management, energy services, and legal support services.
- **Supporting our customers charged with implementing ARRA initiatives**  
Helping our customers meet their ARRA provisions is another critical component of the FAS economic recovery efforts. FAS is working to increase customer awareness of the wide range of acquisition solutions and services available for their stimulus related work. These tools include the Multiple Award Schedules program, the Government-Wide Acquisition Contracts (GWACs), and a variety of self-service e-tools such as GSA Advantage! and e-Library. Additionally, our Assisted Acquisition Services program is available to provide professional procurement support for complex technology solutions.
- **Managing the FAS-specific requirement to purchase fuel efficient and low emission vehicles**  
FAS is moving forward on the ARRA requirement to purchase fuel efficient and low emission vehicles. In partnership with the Office of Governmentwide Policy (OGP), we are preparing an action plan and evaluation criteria to determine which vehicles will be replaced using stimulus funding. We will vet the plan through the Motor Vehicle Executive Council and provide it to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), who will then submit it to Congress. This effort, in conjunction with the PBS greening of federal buildings, demonstrates both the Obama Administration's and our commitment to making the federal government a leader in environmentally-friendly business practices.
- **Adhering to ARRA reporting requirements**  
Another major priority for President Obama, Congress, and of course GSA and FAS, is conducting government business in a transparent, accountable, and fiscally responsible manner.

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## Alliant Contracts Awarded

On March 27, 2009, the Enterprise GWAC Center Southwest awarded Alliant contracts to 59 prime contractors. Alliant complements the recently awarded Alliant SB contracts and is a multiple award, indefinite-delivery, indefinite quantity (IDIQ) Governmentwide Acquisition Contract (GWAC) offering comprehensive and flexible IT solutions worldwide. The program has a \$50 billion ceiling, with a five-year base period, and one five-year option period.

Alliant provides IT solutions through performance of a broad range of services, which may include the integration of various technologies critical to the services being acquired. A unique feature of the Alliant contract is its alignment with the Federal Enterprise Architecture and the Department of Defense Enterprise Architecture.

## **KUDOS KORNER**



### **Congratulations to FAS Employees for Length of Service Awards in April 2009**

#### **35 Years Service**

Rose Tucker  
Yolanda Villarreal

#### **30 Years Service**

Sharon Daniel

#### **25 Years Service**

Erich Schuette

### **Kudos to Kathy Snell, Contract Specialist in the Greater Southwest Acquisition Center.**

*"I wanted to take a moment of your time to acknowledge the phenomenal support we received from our contract administrator Kathy Snell. We were recently provided an opportunity to propose support for a VA posted RFP against our GSA Contracts GS23F-0026L and 0027L. This RFP opportunity fit our past performance and service expertise perfectly... only we lacked one very important SIN (541-4C). Kathy went above and beyond the call of duty to assist us with adding this SIN in time to meet the proposal deadline and there are just no words to adequately express our gratitude for this exemplary support. These are hard times for small business and big business alike, and we all have to really work hard for every opportunity we can get. Having someone like Kathy, who embodies a "can do" "get it done" attitude, in a position where she can assist companies like ours is critical to our ability to succeed through these hard times.*



*Our gratitude goes out to the entire GSA Team... and specifically to Kathy Snell. We could use a great deal more people like her in this world."*

*Best wishes for a successful year!  
Randy Noble, President / COO, Go Image*

## **FAS Recovery Act Highlights (Continued)**

The ARRA has a number of reporting requirements, and we are collaborating with OMB, OGP, CIO, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO), and our Portfolio partners to ensure that we meet and exceed the transparency requirements of Congress and the President.

We are issuing reports on a timely basis and will continue to do everything possible to ensure that all ARRA transactions are recorded and identified. This includes informing our vendor partners about the importance of reporting requirements for recovery related work.

- **Hosting and maintaining the Recovery.gov website**

GSA helped establish and is hosting Recovery.gov, the official website of the Federal Government that will report the ongoing progress on the reinvestment funding for the American public. We welcome this assignment – GSA is a leader throughout the federal community and has the management and technical expertise to make this a success. GSA will continue to host the Recovery.gov website, provide 24/7 operational support, and ensure security operations support.

The Recovery.gov website is a highly visible and critical component to President Obama's commitment to transparency and accountability.

### **Summary**

The work we are doing to support our country's economic recovery will serve as a major event in GSA and FAS history. Employees can remain informed by doing the following:

Check out the ARRA InSite spotlight at [http://insite.gsa.gov/wps/portal/fas\\_insight](http://insite.gsa.gov/wps/portal/fas_insight), where you will find a list of Frequently Asked Questions.

Reference the Vendor Support Center website a <http://vsc.gsa.gov> for answers to questions from vendors.

## **Southwest Supply Center Earns "Shipper Performance Award"**

The Southwest Supply Center (SSC) of Fort Worth, Texas has earned the Surface Deployment and Distribution Command's (SDDC) "Shipper Performance Award" for 2008. The "Shipper Performance Award" program is part of the SDDC's ongoing effort to promote timely and accurate documentation for shipments moving through the Defense Transportation System. A special category was created to honor organizations that have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to quality documentation. The SSC qualified in this category due to the volume of shipments increasing from approximately 500 in 2007 to over 1,000 in 2008. In addition, shipping instruction entries were over 90% on-time and accurate. For this achievement the SSC was presented the "Blue Shipper" award for shipping activities which have proven to be valuable assets through their outstanding efforts and commendable records. The "Blue Shipper" award will be presented to a representative from the SSC, Betty G. Robinson, at an annual Training Symposium April 6-9, 2009, at the Marriott Marquis, Atlanta, Georgia.



## **FAS Training Schedule**

April 14, 2009—**Leadership and Team Building**, (FW FOB)

April 15, 2009—**Ethics Training**, (FW FOB)

April 20—May 1, 2009—**CON 218 Advanced Contracting for Mission Support**, (FW Depot Multipurpose Center)

April 27– May 8, 2009—**FREE CON 120 Mission-Focused Contracting**, (FW FOB - Register at <http://www.fai.gov>)

May 4-8, 2009—**CON 100 Shaping Smart Business Arrangements**, (FW FOB)

May 12-14, 2009—**Creative Decision Making**, (FW FOB)

May 18-22, 2009—**COR/COTR Training**, (FW Depot Multipurpose Center)

**Contact Jennifer Koranda at (817) 574-4305 for more information on training**

## KUDOS KORNER

**Congratulations to Greater Southwest Acquisition Center's Sandra Clerk-Brown who earned her Lean Six Sigma Green Belt.**



Lean Six Sigma (L6S) projects are improving operational efficiencies across GSA. This has certainly been the case with the conversion of all Multiple Award Schedule contracts managed by the Greater Southwest Acquisition Center. Sandra Clerk-Brown in tangent with the Center's Lean Team (JoAnn Stanley, Teresa Hill, Frank Wilson, Cathy Nelson, Brenda McCall, Bonnie Cooper, and Mary Ann Swearingen) facilitated the Center increasing its usage and participation rate from 50 percent to over 80 percent. Contract Officers and Contracting Specialists have embraced managing all contracting activities from "cradle to grave" in an electronic environment. She completed her project close-out presentation to a cross-organizational steering committee on January 27. According to Sandra, *"pursing my L6S Greenbelt certificate was probably one of the most challenging and worthwhile experiences I have had working at GSA. The greatest lesson learned is that people can and will eventually embrace change as long as you can consistently demonstrate value and benefit in their respective areas of influence."*



**Kudos to Karen Beyer, Customer Service Director (CSD), Customer Accounts and Research and Brenda McCall, Contract Specialist in the Greater Southwest Acquisition Center**

CSD Beyer worked with Brenda McCall, Contracting Officer for Schedule 84 - Law Enforcement & Security Equipment and Services to provide solutions to the 37th Contracting Squadron. Ms. McCall worked with the vendor to initiate a contract modification to ensure the items the customer requested were placed on their schedule contract. The procurement is estimated at approximately \$2 million. A fine example of GSA working together with the customer to provide the solution they required. Way to go!

## Getting to Know You

**Alberta "Genni" Brown, Property Management Director, Celebrates 30 Years of Government Service**

Alberta "Genni" Brown's call to service started in Junior High School, where she campaigned for Mayor of the School and President of the Student Council and won. She went on to hold various other leadership positions throughout high school.

After graduation from Greenville High School in 1974, Genni joined the U.S. Air Force as an Administration Specialist during the Vietnam Era. She served in the Air Force for four years, from 1974-1978. In 1978, she took advantage of the G.I. Education Bill and spent the next four years in college. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology with a minor in Business Administration from Jackson State University in her home state of Mississippi in 1983.



Acting Regional Commissioner, Kathy Colomo, presents Genni Brown with her 30 Years of Service Certificate

Genni joined GSA, General Products Center, in May 1986 as a Purchasing Agent from the Air Force, Sheppard AFB in Wichita Falls, TX. She was promoted in January 1987 to a GS 7/9/11 Contract Specialist position. During that time, she also worked on her Master of Public Administration degree at UTA and graduated in 1994. In 1995, Genni was promoted to a GS 11/12, Customer Liaison Specialist in the General Products Center.

*"I was at the right place and at the right time and prepared,"* Genni claims with a smile. The Customer Liaison position led to the establishment of a new Division in the General Products Center – Marketing Division in 1998. Genni was the first Director of the FSS Marketing and Business Development Divisions in the General Products Center.

Since Feb. 2007, Genni has served as the Regional Director of the Property Management Division in Fort Worth, with property disposal responsibility in an 11-State area. Prior to this assignment, she served as Deputy Director of the Division and Director of the Fort Worth Division from May 2003 to Feb. 2007.

Genni has completed various OPM Management Development Center courses, including the Seminar for New Managers, Management Development Seminar and Executive Development Seminar. She has served on the Federal Executive Board as Chair of the Diversity Committee, as President of a local Toastmasters Club, the first Chair of the Alliance for Quality Business Solutions and various leadership positions. She is currently working on an Executive Master of Business Administration degree at Texas Woman's University with an emphasis in leadership, coaching and training with plans to graduate in December of this year.

Genni has two daughters – Kerri (a sophomore at the University of Texas at Austin) and Gerri, who is the mother of Genni's two grandsons: Gerald (2 years old) and William (3 years old). She also has two pets: Lexi, a miniature pinscher, and Snoopi, a terrier.

Her hobbies include a variety of activities, including reading, traveling, attending sporting events, movies, playing Scrabble or spades, cookouts with friends and family, continuous learning and exploring the world around her.

Genni says her philosophy on life is to *"Always have a goal in mind to work towards. Stay positive. Reach for the sky, but be just as happy if you land on a cloud. Let your life flow and be humble."* Her future plans after GSA are to start a Personal / Life / Career Coaching Business.

## Scholarships



### Federal Business Association (FBA) Scholarships

The Federal Business Association (FBA) is currently accepting Scholarship Applications for the Fall 2009 School Year. Applications are due by May 6, 2009 and can be downloaded from the FBA website at <http://hydra.gsa.gov/regions/7pbs/fba/scholarship.htm>.



## KUDOS KORNER



**Congratulations to Laura Wair, Contract Specialist from the Greater Southwest Acquisition Center for the below outstanding customer testimonial.**

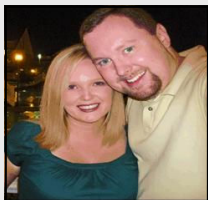
*"... Laura belongs at the top of the contracting excellence list for her professionalism, timely responses to our offer and for her excellent communication skills with the vendor community. Laura is obviously well trained, knows her profession very well and has an outstanding command of the FAR. And, Laura is quick to share her knowledge with others.*

*As a program manager and supervisor for most of my thirty-eight years at GSA, I am certain that GSA, FAS also recognizes Laura as a true professional 1102 and most importantly, as an individual of the highest caliber, one who is more than aware of the importance Schedule 84 has to the firefighter community. The Tom Smith Fire Equipment Company team, the US Military firefighters and I appreciate what Laura is doing to support the Federal community and the Small Business community. Kindest Regards,*

*Byron E. Strain, Managing Partner, Federal Management Solutions, LLC"*

### Expecting New Bundle of Joy

Chris Redmond, Senior Contract Specialist with the Southwest Supply Center and his wife Jennifer were honored with a baby shower on March 18, hosted by several of Chris' coworkers. Chris began working for the SSC in 2003. The proud parents are expecting their first bundle of joy, Sophia Grace, on April 15.



### Happy Birthday, Tom



Tom Barnes, Chief, Technical Services Branch of the Southwest Supply Center, celebrated his 50th birthday on March 19. Tom's group, along with his wife Laura

and daughter Sarah, treated him to lunch at Riscyks' restaurant with birthday cake afterwards.

## Stress Management Techniques

The best stress management techniques are those that are easy to use. Quick to learn and quick to implement, you can use them to manage your own stress levels or teach them to help others manage theirs. Stress management techniques help you control your stress and be a healthier, happier and more pleasant person to be around.

**1. Acknowledge stress is good** - Make stress your friend! Based on the body's natural "fight or flight" response, that burst of energy will enhance your performance at the right moment. Use stress wisely to push yourself that little bit harder when it counts most.

**2. Avoid stress sneezers** - Stressed people sneeze stress germs indiscriminately and before you know it, you are infected too! Protect yourself by recognizing stress in others and limiting your contact with them. Or if you've got the inclination, play stress doctor and teach them how to better manage themselves.

**3. Learn from the best** - When people around are losing their head, who keeps calm? What are they doing differently? What is their attitude? What language do they use? Are they trained and experienced? Figure it out from afar or sit them down for a chat. Learn from the best stress managers and copy what they do.

**4. Practice socially acceptable heavy breathing** - You can trick your body into relaxing by using heavy breathing. Breathe in slowly for a count of 7 then breathe out for a count of 11. Repeat the 7-11 breathing until your heart rate slows down, your sweaty palms dry off and things start to feel more normal.

**5. Give stressful thoughts the red light** - It is possible to tangle yourself up in a stress knot all by yourself. "If this happens, then that might happen and then we're all up the creek!" Most of these things never happen, so why waste all that energy worrying needlessly? Give stress thought-trains the red light and stop them in their tracks. Okay so it might go wrong – how likely is that, and what can you do to prevent it?

**6. Know your trigger points** - Presentations, interviews, meetings, giving difficult feedback, tight deadlines...! Make your own list of stress trigger points or hot spots. Be specific. Is it only presentations to a certain audience that get you worked up? Does one project cause more stress than another? Did you drink too much coffee? Knowing what causes you stress is powerful information, as you can take action to make it less stressful. Do you need to learn some new skills? Do you need extra resources? Do you need to switch to decaf?

**7. Burn the candle at one end** - Lack of sleep, poor diet and no exercise wreaks havoc on our body and mind. Kind of obvious, but worth mentioning as it's often ignored as a stress management technique. Listen to your mother and don't burn the candle at both ends!

Learn these seven techniques, use them and teach them, and be a great stress manager. *Source: Lyndsay Swinton, Owner, Management for the Rest of Us (www.mftrou.com)*

**We have some stressometers available.** Contact Jennifer Koranda at 817-574-4305 or stop by Room 13A05.



**Save the Date - One GSA PICNIC**  
**June 5, 2009**

**Announcing—T-Shirt Design Contest:** We are looking for a new design for the 2009 One GSA Picnic T-Shirt. Here's a chance to show your creativity. Some possible ideas might include One GSA, GSA's 60th Anniversary, Go Green, etc. Designs should be limited to two colors to keep costs down. Designs should be sent to R07FAS@gsa.gov. The deadline for submitting designs is April 20th.



**We need your cars!** If you are interested in participating in the Picnic Car Show, please contact Michelle Patterson (shelli.patterson@gsa.gov) or call 817-978-0292.



The picnic will be held at the Lockheed Martin Recreation Area (LMRA). More details on the One GSA Picnic will follow in the next several weeks including T-Shirt sales and ticket sales.